

CHILD FIND

NEPN/NSBA Code: IHBAC

Regional School Unit 78 seeks to ensure that all children within its jurisdiction are identified, located and evaluated who are school age 5 and who are under the age of 21 and who are in need of special education and supportive assistance. This includes homeless children, state wards, state agency clients, students who have been suspended or expelled, children attending private schools receiving home instruction, children incarcerated in county jails, children who have the equivalent of 10 full days of unexcused absences or 7 consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a school year, highly mobile children (including migrant or homeless) and children who are suspected of being disabled and in need of special education and supportive assistance even though they are advanced from grade to grade.

1. are in need of special education and supportive services;
2. have been suspended or expelled;
3. are attending private schools;
4. are receiving home instruction;
5. are incarcerated in county jails;
6. who are identified as truant during a school year;
7. are highly mobile children to include migrant and homeless; and
8. are suspected of being disabled and in need of special education services and supportive assistance even though they are advancing from grade to grade are identified, located and evaluated.

The school's child find responsibility shall be accomplished through a school-wide process which, while not a definitive or final judgment of a student's capabilities or disability, is a possible indicator of special education needs. Final identification of students with disabilities and programming for such students occurs only after an appropriate evaluation and a determination by the IEP Team.

The school unit (RSU78) shall provide Child find during the first 30 days of the school year or during the first 30 days of enrollment for transfer children, in addition to other Child Find activities provided by the school unit.

This child find process shall include obtaining data on each child through multiple measures, direct assessment, and parent information regarding the child's academic and functional performance, gross and fine motor skills, receptive and expressive language skills, vision, hearing and cognitive skills. Regional School Unit 78 may schedule child find activities during its annual kindergarten enrollment to assist in planning for necessary special education and related service at the start of the school year. If screening occurs in the spring prior to school entry, the school (RSU 78) will refer the child to the regional Child Development Services (CDS) site within 10 school days.

If the child find process indicates that a student may require special education and supportive services in order to benefit from regular education, the student shall be referred to the IEP Team to determine the student's eligibility for special educations services.

School staff, parents, or agency representatives or other individuals with knowledge of the child may refer children to the IEP team if they believe that the student, because of a disability, may be in need of special education and supportive services in order to benefit from regular education. Such a referral should follow the school pre-referral and referral policy.

References: 34 C.F.R. § 300.111 (2006); Maine Department of Education. Rule. Ch. 101, 2(A) (2015); Me Department of Education Administrative letter (January 21, 2021)

Adopted: March 23, 1993

Revised: February 27, 2001

Revised: May 13, 2008

Revised: January 2, 2014

Revised: March 12, 2019

Revised: October 12, 2021; Reviewed: 2.28.2022